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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 10 December 1952

SUBJECT Border Controls Along the
Turco-Bulgarian Frontier

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SUPPLEMENT TO 50X1-HUM
REPORT NO.

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1. Border travel restrictions are enforced throughout an area covering approximately 40 kilometers inland from and parallel to the Bulgarian-Turkish border. This entire area is under strict control and is subdivided into several sections, the number and size of which are not known [redacted] 50X1-HUM
2. The area 500 meters inland from and parallel to the border is off-limits to all personnel, including those persons possessing valid documentation for travel. Signs marked "Murtva Zona" (death zone) are placed at various points throughout this area. Cultivation of the land and grazing of animals are not permitted and all shepherds allowing their animals to wander into this area are subject to immediate arrest and a fine of 1,000 to 5,000 leva payable at the nearest Border Guard Station.
3. The First Border Zone begins at the end of this 500-meter area and extends inland and parallel to the border for a distance not known [redacted] 50X1-HUM
4. Filipovo village, which is approximately 4.5 kilometers from the border, is located within the Second Border Zone and all Karta za Samolichnost (Identity Cards) issued to the inhabitants have a special cachet indicating residence in the Second Border Zone. During the spring and summer of 1951 these cachets were placed on the back of these cards. Wooden signs bearing the number "2" are placed on the trees along the road between Filipovo and the border. 50X1-HUM
5. Villages located in the immediate vicinity of the border are under the control and jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Border Guard Service. [redacted] Villages located further away from the border are under the control and jurisdiction of the Militia. Not even Militia representatives are allowed to travel within the First Border Zone or in the immediate vicinity of the border without the permission of the Border Guards.

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[REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

6. There are no Militia representatives stationed at Matochina ([REDACTED]), which is approximately 0.8 kilometers from the border, at Filipovo, or on the road between these two villages. Document checks and travel controls in the vicinity of these two villages are usually conducted by members of the village municipalities and/or individual members of the local Communist Party. Documents required for travel between Filipovo and Matochina are a Bilet za Shap,¹ a special Otkrit List (Travel Permit)² and a valid Karta za Samolichnost. Individuals known to be residing in each restricted area have no need for special documents.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment: The Bilet za Shap is issued by the local veterinarian and validated by appropriate Militia personnel. It is needed for travel in the vicinity of Topolovgrad and the Bulgarian-Turkish border where the existence of Shap (hoof-and-mouth disease) exists.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment: This is not an official Otkrit List but a piece of paper indicating Identity Card number, date of issue, purpose of trip, place of origin and place of destination. The paper is obtained from the village municipal authorities and does not require an authenticating cachet from the Militia.

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